Water Supply is a State subject and State Governments implement schemes/projects on drinking water supply from their own resources. The Government of India supplements their efforts to overcome the water crisis by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).

Irrigation Facilities in Assam

1505. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for providing irrigation facilities in the State of Assam during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of financial assistance proposed to be granted to Assam during the current financial year for the said purpose; and

(d) The necessary steps being taken by Government to achieve the targets as fixed for agriculture development in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The targets for providing irrigation facilities in the State of Assam during the Tenth Five Year Plan have not been finalized by the Planning Commission.

(b) Does Not arise.

(c) In addition to plan allocation for the year 2002-03 to be finalized, for which the Working Group of the Planning Commission has recommended Rs. 114.76 crore for major, medium and minor irrigation projects/schemes in the State of Assam, Central assistance is also proposed. Financial assistance under the Command Area Development Programme (CADP) is proposed to be provided to the State depending on proposals from the State Government and utilization of funds received so far under the programme. Under the

celerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Central Loan Assistance (CLA) of Rs. 35 crore to Assam is proposed for the year 2002-03.

(d) The North Eastern Region including Assam is one of the Eco-fragile regions of the Country, which have lagged behind in agricultural development. Apart from steps being taken by the State Government emphasis is being laid on facilitating the development of the potential of the State and bridging yield-gaps so as to have an impact on the overall development as per draft Tenth Plan document of the Planning Commission. The document also stipulates the following steps to be taken during the Tenth Five Year Plan:

(i) Sustainable development of natural resources through soil and water conservation, watershed development and the development of minor irrigation facilities together with rainwater harvesting and conservation.

(ii) The farming system's approach based on the agro-climatic conditions and endowment of the regions with land and water resources would be adopted for the development of agriculture.

(iii) Minor Irrigation infrastructure would be developed which will help adopt improved crop production technologies, crop diversification and multiple cropping.

(iv) The Centrally sponsored scheme "On-Firm Water management for Increasing Crop Production", which has already became operational, will be implemented for developing the ground water potential.

(v) Tapping the inherent advantage of low input use in the North Eastern Region, emphasis would be laid on organic firming system with special focus on rural-urban compost, crop residual utilization, cultivation of legumes and use of biofertilizers etc.

(vi) Special attention will be given to flow of credit in this region and extension reforms will be introduced.

———